

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 OES-03 CU-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 TAR-01 IO-10

/101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN :LRMURRAY

APPROVED BY NEA/AFN :MWILEY

DOD/OASD/ISA/AF:ASKOGERBOE

COM/BIC/CHOSTLER

COM/BIC/CAGNE:PHALE

OPIC:JOFFUTT

TREAS/OMEA:LATLAS

NEA/BLC:MDRAPER

E:RPOATS

EP/CBA:DBRAMANTE

AA/NGSA (AID) ASCHWARZWALDER

OES/APT/BMP ARICHMOND

CU/NEA DNEWBERRY

S/S:CABORG

----- 020626

R 012310Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EPEXP, TS

SUBJECT:U.S.-TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION

1. AMBASSADOR HEDDA HAS INFORMALLY TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT
GOT WISHES TO HOLD NEXT MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION IN
TUNIS IN OCTOBER. WE ARE BEGINNING TO REVIEW POSSIBLE
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ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION FOR THIS MEETING, AND WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS AS TO TIMING AND DURATION
OF MEETINGS, AND HOW THEY MIGHT BE ARRANGED. (WE THINK
TWO FULL WORKING DAYS SHOULD BE MAXIMUM.) WE WOULD ALSO

APPRECIATE KNOWING, AS SOON AS THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, NAMES OF PRINCIPAL GOVT OFFICIALS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS, AND SPECIFIC ISSUES TUNISIA WISHES TO HAVE ON AGENDA.

2. WE EXPECT THAT U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ROBINSON. WEEK OF OCTOBER 13 APPEARS TO BE MOST CONVENIENT BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION, AND IS ACCEPTABLE TO MR. ROBINSON.

3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING NAME OF TUNISIAN CO-CHAIRMAN FOR THE SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. AT TIME OF MAY 2 SUBCOMMISSION MEETING HOSTED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, CHARLES HOSTLER, TUNISIAN MINISTER OF PLANS INDICATED THAT EITHER ALI AZZOUZ, DIRECTOR OF

TRADE, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, OR CHEDLI TNANI, DIRECTOR FOR INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE CO-CHAIRMAN. IF IN MAKING THIS CHOICE GOVT REQUIRES BACKGROUND ON WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DISCUSS IN SUBCOMMISSION, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING THOUGHTS OF INTERESTED USG AGENCIES.

4. PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, IN OUR VIEW ARE: (1) TO SERVE AS FORUM IN WHICH TO SHARE INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PRIMARY MUTUAL INTEREST IN FIELDS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT, WHICH THOUGH PRESENTLY MODEST ARE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT, AND (2) TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS FOR INCREASED BUSINESS COOPERATION. GOVT INTEREST IN GREATER TRANSFER OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL AND USG INTEREST IN CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS, IMPORT NEEDS AND COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT CAN FIND COMMON GROUND IN SUBCOMMISSION EXCHANGES. THUS, MAY 2 AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF PAPERS PRIOR TO NEXT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING HAS PRACTICAL PURPOSE. INFORMATION WE HOPE TO OBTAIN, AND CLARIFY THROUGH SUB-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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COMMISSION MEETINGS, SHOULD HELP IN PROGRAMING USG COMMERCIAL EFFORTS IN TUNISIA AND PUBLICIZING TUNISIAN INTERESTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO U.S. INDUSTRY. ILLUSTRATIVE TOPICS WE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE, INTERALIA, INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

- A) STATUS AND PRIORITY OF TUNISIAN MAJOR PROJECTS AND GROWTH SECTORS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. CONSULTANTS, DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS, SUPPLIERS AND INVESTORS;
- B) MARKETING INFORMATION, INCLUDING REVIEW OF IMPORT AND EXCHANGE REGULATION WITH DISCUSSION

OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS; ROLE OF
TUNISIAN AGENTS IN BIDDING ON GOVERNMENT TENDERS;
BIDDING PROCEDURES INCLUDING RATIONALE OF DEAD-
LINES AND FREQUENCY OF ISSUANCE OF PERIODIC
TENDERS FOR SUPPLIERS;

C) PROSPECTS FOR PETRODOLLAR FINANCING OF
TUNISIAN PROJECTS;

D) BUSINESS LAWS AND REGULATIONS, SUCH AS
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN/ENGINEERING
FIRMS AND LAND TENURE LEGISLATION AND LIMITATIONS.

5. WE BELIEVE GOT MAY BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING SUB-
JECTS WHICH COMMERCE PROPOSES TO REVIEW IN SUBCOMMISSION
ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

A) USG PUBLICITY EFFORTS ON TUNISIA, SUCH AS NEW
COMMERCE OVERSEAS BUSINESS REPORT WHICH SHOULD BE
PUBLISHED BY OCTOBER;

B) POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL MARKET RESEARCH
ACTIVITY BY DDC, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF
SFC FUNDS;

C) OUR ABILITY (WHICH IS LIMITED) TO DISSEMINATE
INFORMATION ON TUNISIAN EXPORT INTERESTS SUCH AS
OLIVE OIL AND WINE, AND ASSISTANCE WHICH CAN BE
GIVEN TO TUNISIAN BUYERS IN U.S.;

D) CAPABILITIES OF U.S. INDUSTRY IN SECTORS OF
INTEREST TO TUNISIANS, AND COMMERCE TRADE PROMO-
TION PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA;
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E) 1974 U.S. TRADE ACT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR
TUNISIA;

F) USG FINANCING ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING EXIMBANK,
FCIA, CCC AND OPIC PROGRAMS;

G) USG EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON
TUNISIAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

6. COMMERCE ENVISAGES THAT THIS SUBCOMMISSION SHOULD
GIVE MAJOR EMPHASIS TO SHARING AND DISSEMINATION OF
COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC INFORMATION, AND THAT OTHER MAJOR
RELATED TOPICS BE DEALT WITH IN FULL JOINT COMMISSION.
COMMERCE SUGGESTS THAT SUBCOMMISSION MEET FOR AT LEAST
ONE FULL DAY POSSIBLY OCTOBER 13, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO
FULL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.

7. AID WOULD PREFER TO HOLD LOW-KEY MEETING OF SUB-
COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR MOMENT LEAVE OPEN THE
QUESTION OF WHO WILL ACT AS U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN. ONE
APPROACH WOULD BE TO HAVE MISSION AID DIRECTOR JAMES
SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY. EMPHASIS OF DEVELOPMENT SUB-
COMMISSION SHOULD BE ON CURRENT PROGRAMS, RATHER THAN ON

BROADER QUESTION OF FUTURE U.S. ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER
GIVEN RECENT CONSULTATIVE GROUP EXPERIENCE, WE ARE SKEPTI-
CAL THAT THIS APPROACH CAN BE SUSTAINED. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON TUNISIAN'S INTENTION
TO RAISE QUESTIONS OF AID LEVELS, AND NAME OF PROBABLE
TUNISIAN CO-CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMISSION. WE
ALSO ENVISAGE THIS SUBCOMMISSION MEETING TAKING PLACE
PRIOR TO MEETING OF FULL COMMISSION.

8. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT MAY BE READY FOR SIGNATURE AT
TIME OF JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS. STATUS REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY CAN ALSO BE PRE-
SENTED IN FULL COMMISSION MEETING.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INQUIRE WHEN GOT PROPOSES
TO HOLD NEXT MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMISS-
SIONS, AND WHO WOULD BE PRINCIPAL GOT PARTICIPANTS.
DEPARTMENT ALSO WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS ON

ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS, ITEMS WHICH MIGHT BE INCLUDED
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IN THE AGENDA, AND SPECIFIC TUNISIAN INTERESTS AND
OBJECTIVES.

10. TUNIS 03958 RECEIVED JUST AS THIS TELEGRAM IS BEING
PUT ON WIRES. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S HELPFUL
EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY PRINCIPAL TUNISIAN PARTICIPANTS. INGERSOLL

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